

Updates for the week of October 4th, 2004

Tools

- **VOLCANIC ASH MESSAGES:** We understand that people may be concerned about possible health risks of volcanic ash, due to Friday's eruption at Mount St. Helens in southwestern Washington. The Department of Health Asthma program has put together talking points to help people communicate and understand the health effects of volcanic ash: [Volcanic Ash Talking Points](#).
- American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs) still have lower life expectancies, less health coverage, and poorer access to care than most other Americans. For more information check out: http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=239464
- Partnership for Prevention referred to a technical assistance tool on our most recent conference call, September 22. The tool, "Comprehensive and Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention: Action Planning for States and Communities." can be viewed here: [steps/publications/PFP_workbook2.pdf](#)
- Tool designed to help schools establish best practices in nutrition and physical activity: Criteria for Evaluating School-Based Approaches to Increasing Good Nutrition and Physical Activity is a comprehensive tool for evaluating school-based approaches to increasing children's physical activity and improving nutrition. The criteria were developed by Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) in response to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease
- Overweight and Obesity. AFHK convened a panel of 31 experts from 27 national organizations and government agencies to develop, test, and apply the criteria to approaches in AFHK's "What's Working" database. The report presents a description of the methodology for developing the evaluation criteria, lists the actual criteria, and suggests incentives for motivating action among stakeholders. The report is intended for use by policymakers, educators, researchers, and others in measuring the potential effectiveness and adoptability of a broad range of policies, programs, interventions, and practices. The executive summary is available at http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/docs/specialreports/exec_small.pdf, and the full report is available at http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/docs/specialreports/report_small.pdf.

Training

- The Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium has been providing primers on evaluation and analysis planning. This link will provide valuable information to help you. Visit: www.ttac.org/power-of-proof/interp_data/index

- **REPOST!** On October 13, 2004 3:30-5pm, There will be a special lecture offered by The Honorable Eric M. Bost, Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, US Department of Agriculture on the topic of, "Child Nutrition - What the USDA Can Do". It will be held at the University of Washington, T-639 Health Sciences Center. For more information contact Holly Weese at 206-685-6643.

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Conferences

- Register now for the National Diabetes Education Program Partnership Network Meeting to be held at the Sheraton Colony Square Midtown in Atlanta, Georgia December 7-8th, 2004. For more information Visit: www.ndeppn2004.org/agenda.asp. For registration go to directly to: www.meetinglink.org/ndeppn2004/registration.
- Register for the Healthy Worksite Summit to be held November 4th, 2004 at the Sea Tac Hilton. www.awcnet.org. You will need to click on 2004 Healthy Worksite Summit under Upcoming Workshops in the calendar section of the page.
- The October 12th National Asthma Training Curriculum teleconference information can be found here: [NATC Presentation](#).
- The Access to Healthy Foods Coalition Meeting will be held October 21-22nd in Yakima. For More information, contact Amy Knutz @ amy.knutz-gibson@doh.wa.gov.
- **REMINDER!** Environmental Influences on the Induction and Incidence of Asthma Workshop is scheduled for October 18-19, 2004 at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. For more information visit: [WAI dinner announcement](#).

Information/Updates

- The next community conference call on October 6th has been canceled because it conflicts with the Joint Conference on Health. Our next call will be October 20.
- Amy Manchester Harris has joined the Asthma program as our coordinator for a statewide planning effort surrounding asthma prevention and control. Amy comes to us from the Infectious Disease and Reproductive Health Office where she worked in the HIV Prevention/Client Services Assessment Unit for the Washington State Department of Health. She brings a wealth of experience in health planning, communications, and coalition building. **WELCOME AMY!!!**

- **Finding policy solutions to promote physical activity wins award!** It's not often that specialists from public health, transportation, and land-use management work together to find solutions to transportation policy and infrastructure – making changes that promote physical activity. The State Departments of Health, Transportation, and Community, Trade and Economic Development received an Industry Innovators Award from the International Council on Active Aging for their Active Community Environments grassroots project. Specific recognition goes to **Charlotte Claybrooke** from Nutrition and Physical Activity Section and **Carla White**, former CDC Prevention Specialist with the Office of Health Promotion who were instrumental in developing the Active Community Environments Project. The goal of the project is to incorporate the bicycle and pedestrian community design needs of older citizens in current transportation decisions. The project is innovative in that it uses an environmental and policy change approach to prevent chronic disease. An unexpected outcome of the project is that the State Department of Transportation is creating a new Washington State Transportation Plan that includes a task force to look at integrating concepts of Active Community Environments into the state transportation plan. For more information, contact Charlotte Claybrooke charlotte.claybrooke@doh.wa.gov
- The link below provides policy information, resources, and references related to Steps Areas.
Visit: www.healthpolicyguide.org/default.asp
- The October issue of *Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD)* is now available! Visit: www.cdc.gov/pcd.
- The Tobacco Control Legal Consortium brings you news on key legal developments affecting the tobacco control community. View the latest update here: www.wmitchell.edu/tobaccolaw/resources/LegalUpdate_Sep04.pdf,
- The Health Systems Resources (HSR) Program is a grant program which provides money or technical assistance for projects in Washington State which improve rural health systems or address health care provider shortages in rural or underserved urban areas. Information and all Letter of Interest Application materials can be found at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/HSR/HSRprogram.htm>. If you cannot access the web materials and would like materials to be sent to you please contact Robin Walker at (360) 236-2810, fax (360) 664-9273, or robin.walker@doh.wa.gov. Robin can also answer any questions regarding this program.
- National Health Education Week is celebrated the third week of October every year as a means to raise awareness of a specific health topic as well as the health education profession. This year, NCHE and SOPHE are excited to celebrate National Health Education Week during **October 18-24, 2004** with the theme: **Healthy Eating: Every Bite Counts!** Materials are available for download at

www.sophe.org and at www.nche.org/nche_news.asp.

For more information please contact Jessica Blake at: jblake@sophe.org.

- On October 27th, the Washington Thoracic Society is having a special dinner event to celebrate the 8th anniversary of the statewide asthma initiative. The dinner will be held at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel located at 515 Madison Ave, Seattle WA, 98104. Hotel phone is: (206) 583-0300. For a printable version of the dinner announcement, visit:
[publications/cdc_asthma_teleconference_1.ppt](#).